

SEMICONDUCTOR RAISED SOURCE-DRAIN STRUCTURE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 (Not Applicable)

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH

(Not Applicable)

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

10 The present invention is directed generally to a semiconductor raised source-drain structure and, more particularly, to a semiconductor raised source-drain structure with gate side gaps and pocket junctions.

Description of the Background

15 Raised source and drains have been demonstrated in submicron semiconductor devices. In contrast to conventional source and drains, raised source and drains are vertical structures formed on top of the substrate instead of implanted structures in the substrate surface. Thin film structures are typically inserted between the sidewalls of the gate and the top regions of the raised source and drains to isolate the gate from the source and drains.

20 Such an isolation arrangement, however, can cause excessive capacitive loading from gate to source and drain.

Devices incorporating raised source and drains typically include implanted n- regions under the source and drain regions to create conductive channels between the gate and the source and drains. Such channels do not have good drive and punchthrough capabilities.

25 Also, it is difficult to implant the conductive channels after the polysilicon pattern defining the source and drain structures.

Thus, there is a need for a semiconductor device with raised source and drains that has improved series resistance, good I_{DS} current drive, improved punchthrough leakage, and reduced sidewall capacitance that can be fabricated using standard fabrication techniques.

5 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a semiconductor structure which includes a raised source and a raised drain. The structure also includes a gate located between the source and drains. The gate defines a first gap between the gate and the source and a second gap between the gate and the drain.

10 The present invention represents a substantial advance over prior raised source and drain structures. The present invention has the advantage that it improves the sidewall decoupling of the raised source-drain to the polysilicon gate. In one embodiment, the present invention also has the advantage that it connects the source and drain to the pocket junction next to the gate edge with a high dose implant for reduced series resistance. In
15 another embodiment, the present invention has the further advantage that the full CMOS process flow is reduced compared to typical raised source-drain CMOS process flows by making raised source-drain structures of n+ and p+ polysilicon with respective pocket junctions by implantation. The present invention also has the advantage that conductive source and drain structures can be placed closer to the polysiliccion gate, thereby reducing the
20 size of the structure. The present invention also has the advantage that implanted areas between the gate and source and drain structures can be fabricated using conventional semiconductor processing techniques. The present invention has the further advantage that current may move from the implanted areas to the raised source and drain structures with minimal resistance. Those and other advantages and benefits of the present invention will
25 become apparent from the description of the preferred embodiments hereinbelow.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

For the present invention to be clearly understood and readily practiced, the present invention will be described in conjunction with the following figures, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a substrate assembly at an early stage of the
5 fabrication process of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly of FIG. 1 after portions of
the sacrificial layer have been removed;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly of FIG. 2 after portions of
the oxide layer have been removed;

10 FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly of FIG. 3 after it has been
subject to mechanical abrasion to remove portions of the polysilicon layer;

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly of FIG. 4 after the
polysilicon layer has been patterned;

15 FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly of FIG. 5 after a
conductive layer has been formed;

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly of FIG. 6 after portions of
the conductive layer have been removed;

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly of FIG. 7 after a
nonconformal capping layer has been deposited;

20 FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly of FIG. 8 after an
insulative layer has been deposited and the substrate assembly has been subject to a
mechanical abrasion process;

FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly of FIG. 9 after contact
areas have been patterned and plugs have been formed;

25 FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly of FIG. 10 after metal
layers have been formed and patterned;

FIG. 12 illustrates a semiconductor device in which the present invention may be employed; and

FIG. 13 is a block diagram illustrating a computer system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 It is to be understood that the figures and descriptions of the present invention have been simplified to illustrate elements and process steps that are relevant for a clear understanding of the present invention, while eliminating, for purposes of clarity, other elements and process steps found in a typical semiconductor topography. For example, specific methods and steps of removing layers or portions of layers using techniques such as
10 lithography and etching are not described. Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that other elements and process steps are desirable and/or required to produce an operational device incorporating the present invention. However, because such elements and process steps are well known in the art, and because they do not facilitate a better understanding of the present invention, a discussion of such elements and process steps is not provided herein.

15 FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a substrate assembly 10 at an early stage of the fabrication process of the present invention. The substrate assembly 10 includes a substrate layer 12, which is the lowest layer of semiconductor material on a wafer, and additional layers or structures formed thereon. Layers of oxide 14 are formed on the substrate layer 12 to create field oxide regions 16 and gate oxide region 18. The gate oxide region 18 can be,
20 for example, 40 Å thick. The oxide layers 14 can be formed using any conventional process such as, for example, any form of a shallow trench isolation process or any form of a LOCOS process. A polysilicon layer 20 is formed, typically by deposition, and patterned using, for example, a lithography and etch process to provide a gate terminal of a transistor. The layer 20 can extend over the field to form a terminal for interconnect or may be limited
25 to extending over an active channel area. The formation of the polysilicon layer 20 may

include deposition of polysilicon by a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) process followed by an ion implantation of a dopant, such as phosphorous, to dope the polysilicon layer 20.

A sacrificial layer 22 is formed on the substrate assembly 10. The sacrificial layer 22 can be any type of dielectric material that is not difficult to remove using typical 5 semiconductor processing techniques such as, for example, a thin layer of a nitride, a photoresist layer, a layer of a polyimide, or a layer of a spin on glass (SOG) material. The sacrificial layer 22 can be deposited by a CVD process or by a spin deposition process and if the layer 22 is applied in a liquid form, it can be baked to form a solid.

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly 10 of FIG. 1 after portions 10 of the sacrificial layer 22 have been removed. Spacers 24 of the sacrificial layer 22 remain after the removal step. The spacers may be rectangular in shape or may have a curved shape. Portions of the sacrificial layer may be removed using a standard removal technique such as, for example, plasma etching or lithography and etching.

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly 10 of FIG. 2 after portions 15 of the oxide layers 14 have been removed by a removal process such as, for example, a lithography and etching process. The field oxide regions 16 and the gate oxide region 18 remain after the removal step. A polysilicon layer 26 is formed on the substrate assembly 10, such as by a CVD process.

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly 10 of FIG. 3 after it has 20 been planarized, such as by mechanical abrasion, to remove portions of the polysilicon layer 26. The mechanical abrasion may be performed by a technique such as, for example, chemical mechanical polishing (CMP). The substrate assembly 10 is substantially planar after the planarization.

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly 10 of FIG. 4 after the 25 polysilicon layer 26 has been patterned by, for example, a lithography and etch process.

Raised areas 28 and 30 of the polysilicon layer 26 may be raised source and drain regions, respectively, of a transistor.

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly 10 of FIG. 5 after a conductive layer 32 is formed. The conductive layer 32 acts as a conductive path which 5 carries excess charge built up from the ion implantation process off of the wafer, which is connected to an electrical ground. The conductive layer 32 can be any type of conductor suitable for use in a semiconductor such as, for example, titanium silicide or titanium. The substrate assembly 10 is then masked (not shown) and n+ or p+ dopants are implanted into the polysilicon layer 20 and the raised areas 28 and 30 depending on the type of device being 10 fabricated. The dopants may be, for example, phosphorous, arsenic, or boron atoms.

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly 10 of FIG. 6 after portions of the conductive layer 32 have been removed. The portions of the conductive layer 32 can be removed by, for example, a lithography and etch process. Although certain portions of the conductive layer 32 are shown, the lithography and etch process may eliminate more or 15 less of the conductive layer 32 than is shown in FIG. 7 depending on variations in fabrication processes and depending on whether a mask is used in the etch process. The amount of the conductive layer 32 that is removed does not affect the resultant substrate assembly 10. The spacer areas 24 are also removed by a process such as etching to create gaps 34. The gaps 34 may be 100 to 500 Å wide, depending on the height of the polysilicon 20 layer 20 and the raised areas 28 and 30. The gaps 34 may be filled with a gas such as, for example, nitrogen, argon, oxygen, or a mixture of such gases (air). A vacuum may also be created in the gaps 34.

The substrate assembly 10 may be masked and blankets of n+ or p+ dopants may be implanted, depending on the type of device being fabricated, beneath the gaps 34 and into 25 the substrate layer 12 to create pocket implant junction areas 36, which extend partially under the polysilicon layer 20 and the raised areas 28 and 30. The areas 36 thus create low

series resistance paths. The n+ blanket implant diffuses into the p-channel but is counterdoped by the p+ blanket implant. The excess dopant thus acts as a p-channel punchthrough halo implant. The doping process of the polysilicon layer 20 and the raised areas 28 and 30 as described in conjunction with FIG. 6 creates negatively doped 5 outdiffusion areas 38. The outdiffusion areas 38 may be 50 to 200 Å thick.

The substrate assembly 10 is subject to a low temperature RTP sinter process. Portions of the conductive layer 32 are converted to a nitride by the sinter process. The substrate is then subjected to a lithography and etch process to remove some of the nitride in the conductive layer 32. The substrate assembly 10 is then subject to an RTP anneal 10 process. The anneal process causes the conductive layer 32 to become more dense and to better adhere to the substrate assembly 10.

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly 10 of FIG. 7 after a nonconformal capping layer 40 has been deposited. The nonconformal layer 40 can be any type of insulative material suitable to seal the gaps 34 such as, for example, a deposited layer 15 of oxide.

FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly 10 of FIG. 8 after an insulative layer 42 has been deposited and the substrate assembly 10 has been subject to a planarization process, such as mechanical abrasion. The mechanical abrasion may be performed by, for example, chemical mechanical polishing. The substrate assembly 10 is 20 substantially planar after the planarization. The layer 42 may be a material such as doped oxide that is formed by a CVD process. Such doped oxide may be, for example, phosphosilicate glass (PSG) or borophosphosilicate glass (BPSG).

FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly 10 of FIG. 9 after contact areas have been patterned by, for example, a lithography and etch process, and plugs 44 have 25 been formed. The plug areas 44 may consist of any type of material suitable such as, for example, aluminum, copper, or tungsten. An adhesion layer 45 may be deposited in the

contact areas to promote adhesion of the plugs 44 to the conductive layer 32, the polysilicon layer 20, and the raised areas 28 and 30. The adhesion layer may be a material such as, for example, Ti, TiW, TiN, WSi_x, Ti/TiN, Ti/Cu, Cr/Cu, TiN/Cu, or Ta/Cu.

FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional view of the substrate assembly 10 of FIG. 10 after metal layers 46 have been formed and patterned. The metal layers 46 may be constructed of any material suitable for semiconductor interconnect structures such as, for example, aluminum or copper. The metal layers may be formed by, for example, a CVD process, by electroplating, or by electroless plating. Further metal layers may be formed on the substrate assembly 10 to form an interconnect structure. Such metal layers are not illustrated in FIG. 10.

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FIG. 12 illustrates a semiconductor device 48 in which the present invention may be employed. The semiconductor device 48 may be any type of solid state device such as, for example, a memory device.

FIG. 13 is a block diagram illustrating a computer system 50. The system 50 utilizes a memory controller 52 in communication with RAMs 54 through a bus 56. The memory controller 52 is also in communication with a processor 58 through a bus 60. The processor 58 can perform a plurality of functions based on information and data stored in the RAMs 54. One or more input devices 62, such as, for example, a keypad or a mouse, are connected to the processor 58 to allow an operator to manually input data, instructions, etc. One or more output devices 64 are provided to display or otherwise output data generated by the processor 58. Examples of output devices include printers and video display units. One or more data storage devices 66 may be coupled to the processor 58 to store data on, or retrieve information from, storage media. Examples of storage devices 66 and storage media include drives that accept hard and floppy disks, tape cassettes, and CD read only memories. The raised source-drain structures of the present invention can be incorporated in circuits on all of the devices in the system 50.

While the present invention has been described in conjunction with preferred embodiments thereof, many modifications and variations will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. The foregoing description and the following claims are intended to cover all such modifications and variations.